

**MOSES LAKE TMDL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2003**

DISCUSSION:

- Introductions of Advisory Committee and community members took place.
- Marcie presented a request fill a vacancy - Earl Lyerly passed away and his wife sent a letter requesting that Ed McLeary serve as his replacement. Discussion by the group in regards to procedure for admitting a new member took place. Senator Morton inquired as to the agreed upon criteria for voting. Marcie replied that consensus had been the predetermined process.
- The question was posed as to the composition of the members of the Advisory Committee. It was stated by Marcie Mangold, that he committee members were composed primarily of one individual from each of the interest groups involved.
- The question was raised in regards to the purpose for this Advisory group in relation to presenting information to the EPA. Larry Gadbois responded that the Advisory group was to add input so that the Department of Ecology would have the information necessary to present to the EPA.
- Jim Parsons posed inquiry into the validity of needing a TMDL since it was not on the 1998 303d list. It had been removed from the 1996 EPA list for necessary consideration. Senator Morton presented written documentation that in fact confirmed the removal of Moses Lake from the EPA listing as per Congressman George Netthercutt.
- Senator Morton inquired as to the authority that DOE had in regards to facilitating a TMDL study. Marcie informed the group that after a lawsuit against EPA by some environmental agency groups the EPA designated the DOE with such authority. According to Larry, the RCW 90.48.260 of the Clean Water Act granted authority of the DOE to participate and to take action were necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Clean Water Act.
- Marcie expressed a desire to continue with the agenda as approved at the previous meeting, letting those who had prepared informational presentations from the grant County Health Department and the City of Moses Lake do so. Further discussion took place in regards to the necessity to establish structural guidelines.
- Discussion ensued in regards to the decision-making processes, agenda setting structure, and general functionality of the group. Marcie stated that the group had discussed in previous meeting to present information and discuss issues, but since the Advisory Committee was established as a brainstorming group formalized rules and voting standards were unnecessary and consensus of the group would be sufficient. Senator Morton expressed his disagreement with the consensus process and did not consent to the present format. Rep Holmquist addressed the

fact that a formal presentation would be given to the Federal EPA commission; who according to a proposed DOE timeline would have thirty days to review and take action. Such outcomes of an Advisory meeting would merit establishing and utilizing appropriate and clean means of voting and would facilitate the need for a majority and minority report being submitted.

ACTION:

- **Representative Holmquist moved to adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the format for the Committee; Seconded by Tom Dent. 14 yeas, 4 nays, and 2 abstentions.**
- **Tom Dent moved to appoint himself Temporary Chairperson of the Committee until an official Chair could be elected; Seconded by Representative Holmquist.**
- **Motion was made by Senator Morton open the floor for elections and to elect Tom Dent as official Chair of the Committee. Rep Holmquist seconded motion. No other candidate was nominated.**
- Nominations were made in regards to Jim Parsons, LeRoy Allison or Harold Hochstatter being voted upon for Vice Chair. Vote took place by show of hands. 8 yeas for Jim Parsons, 7 yeas for Leroy Allison, 1 yea for Harold Hochstatter, and 4 abstentions. Majority rule did not take place and thus a second vote followed with 10 yeas for Jim, 7 yeas for LeRoy, and 3 abstentions.
- **A motion was made by Representative Holmquist to appoint Jim Parsons as Vice Chair, Seconded by LeRoy Allison, and approved by the Committee.**
- **Motion was made by Richard Teals to allow the presentations of the previous agenda items. Motion was tabled following discussion by Senator Morton in regards to the necessity of elected an official Secretary for the Committee.**
- **Motion was made by Larry Gadbois to appoint Ecology staff as the Secretary. Seconded by Jim Parson, approved unanimously by the Committee.**
- **Motion was made by Mike LaPlant to appoint Ed McLeary to the TMDL advisory Committee. Seconded by Maxine Lyerly and unanimously approved by the Committee.**
- **Tabled motion by Richard Teals was made to address the agenda items, Seconded by Larry Gadbois, and approved unanimously by the Committee.**

PRESENTATIONS:

CITY OF MOSES LAKE (SHAWN O'BREIN)

- Presented information on the sewer and septic systems of Moses Lake and surrounding areas.
- Stated progress the City had made in regards to replacing and repairing outdated and damaged sewer systems through out the downtown and lake proximity regions.
- Presented information on equipment which was used to determine areas of potential infiltration, stated he was not aware of any specific areas of exfiltration.
- Shawn stated that a home could have their system hooked up to sewer from septic if the cost did not exceed \$4,500.

GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT (GERRY CAMPBELL)

- Stated that the present regulations for septic systems were adopted in 1995.
- Presented that the Moses Lake area falls under a designation of 1A soil which requires special treatment. This classification is development when an areas soil composition is 60% or more gravel composition.
- A Clean Lake Study was done and the Grant County Commissioners requested that the Health District formulate a specialized treatment plan for the area.
- Pressurized septic systems utilize a holding tank, a secondary pumping tank, and drain field. The drain field is underbed composed of concrete and compact sand of a thickness capable of digesting the majority of bacteria in the soil.
- A Gravity system utilizes a single tank and a 3-foot wide trench. Saturation takes place at the lead of the pipe trench and once saturation levels are reached, continuance of deposit along the length of the pipe takes place.
- Phosphorus is a positive charge molecule and if our area was made up by clay soil composition, the majority of elements would be naturally filtered; however with sandy soil composition nitrogen is able to travel through the sand with greater ease.
- The question was posed at to why we even allow septic systems to still be put in, and Gerry answered that under current guidelines it is still allowable as long as appropriate treatment is taking place.
- Under the 1985 Moses Lake Clean Water Project the six established wells throughout the city were tested and it was found that places where less people and more agriculture were found had higher nitrogen levels and less prosperous and visa versa.
- Gerry posed the question as to how significant the potential leaching of phosphorus and nitrogen was then in light of naturally developing levels from many other sources.

ACTION:

- **Motion was made by Jim Parsons to establish a legal basis for the development of the TMDL.** He pointed out that there were many

questions regarding the legal basis for TMDL development for phosphorus in Moses Lake based upon its absence from the current 303(d) list of impaired waterways. Additionally, the people of the surrounding area, through their elected representatives, have posed a series of questions to the DOE and EPA. **He moved that future meetings be postponed until the committee has received and reviewed an adequate answer to the Moses Lake 303(d) listing issue and responses from DOE and EPA to the aforementioned questions. Motion Carried.**

- **An amendment to the motion was made by Larry Gadbois in regards to determining the information and yet continuing meetings to present information on other issues. Second by Richard Teals. Motion failed by vote of the Committee.**
- **Second by Representative Holmquist was made in regards to the original motion to postpone further meetings until appropriate answers were obtained and committee members notified. Approved by the Committee.**
- **Motion was made by Representative Holmquist to record all committee action taken during meeting and recorded by the newly appointed secretary. Seconded by Leroy Allison. Unanimous approval by the Committee.**
- **Motion to adjourn made by Rep Holmquist**

Respectfully submitted,

**Representative Janéa Holmquist
13th Legislative District**